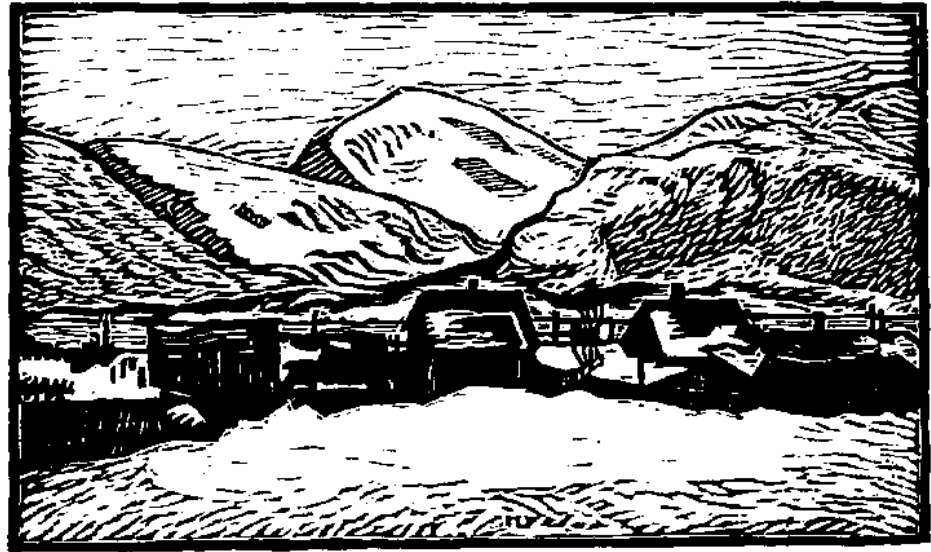


Cooperative
Ecosystem
Studies Units
Network



An Introduction and Progress Report

An Extraordinary Time

- growing demand for scientific expertise
- significant organizational change
- new need for partnerships
- limited resources for science
- opportunities for innovation

Agencies Have Similar Goals

- high-quality science
- usable knowledge for resource managers
- cost-effective research programs
- responsive technical assistance
- continuing education and training

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESUs)

- innovation in delivery of *research, technical assistance, and education*
- evolution of successful strategies
- complement to existing research programs
- expansion of science-based management in federal agencies
- opportunity for participating universities

What are CESUs?

- government/university partnerships based on university campuses, organized into a national network
- *cooperative*, involving several agencies and multiple universities
- *ecosystem studies* include biological, physical, social and cultural sciences
- provide research, technical assistance, and education for natural and cultural resource managers

Participating Agencies

- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Geological Survey
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service
- Agricultural Research Service
- USDA Forest Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Aeronautics & Space Administration
- other agencies to be added in the future

Key Elements of Each CESU

- host university
- partner institutions (at least 1 minority institution)
- multiple federal agencies
- role and mission statement
- managers committee
- strategic plan and annual work plans

Basic Strategy for CESUs

- universities provide space, faculty expertise, students and educational services
- agencies provide scientists, project funds
- individual scientists supervised by their participating agency
- oversight of support, project funds by participating agency
- agencies and universities collaborate on projects
- Network led by national CESU Council

Benefits to Agencies

- broadened scope of scientific services
- *multidisciplinary* problem-solving at several ecological scales
- increased collaboration among federal agencies, universities and scientists
- increased research, technical assistance and education for resource managers

Benefits to Agencies (continued)

- increased diversity of scientists, disciplines and institutions
- professional development opportunities for agency scientists and employees
- improved collaboration between natural and cultural resource managers
- reduced costs through collaborative research, technical assistance and education
- expanded constituency for federal science

Benefits to Universities

- increased collaboration among faculty, students and agency scientists
- augmented faculty for teaching and graduate student supervision
- increased opportunity for multi-agency research projects and continuing education
- increased opportunity for faculty to provide technical assistance to agencies

Benefits to Universities (continued)

- increased opportunities for graduate student research, participation in federal projects, internships and employment
- consistent and comprehensive cooperative agreements that maximize opportunities for federally-sponsored research
- increased role in establishing research agendas of participating agencies

Building the CESU Network

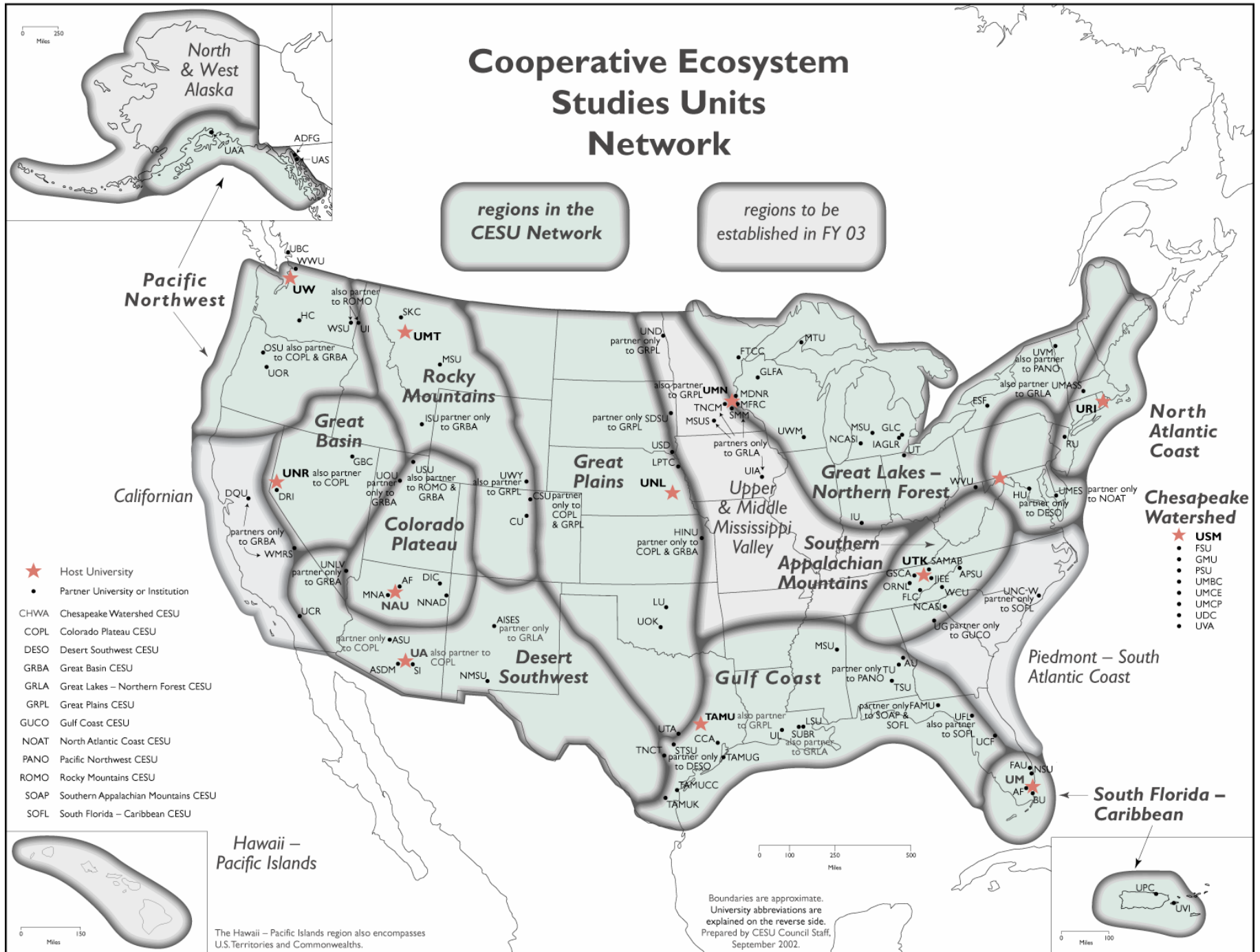
- CESU Council created by Interagency MOU (June 1999), to manage Network and establish national policy
- CESUs being created through rounds of formal competition
- Cooperative/Joint Venture Agreements for 5 years

Current CESUs

- Chesapeake Watershed
- Colorado Plateau
- Desert Southwest
- Great Basin
- Great Lakes-Northern Forest
- Great Plains
- Gulf Coast
- North Atlantic Coast
- Pacific Northwest
- Rocky Mountains
- South Florida-Caribbean
- Southern Appalachian Mountains

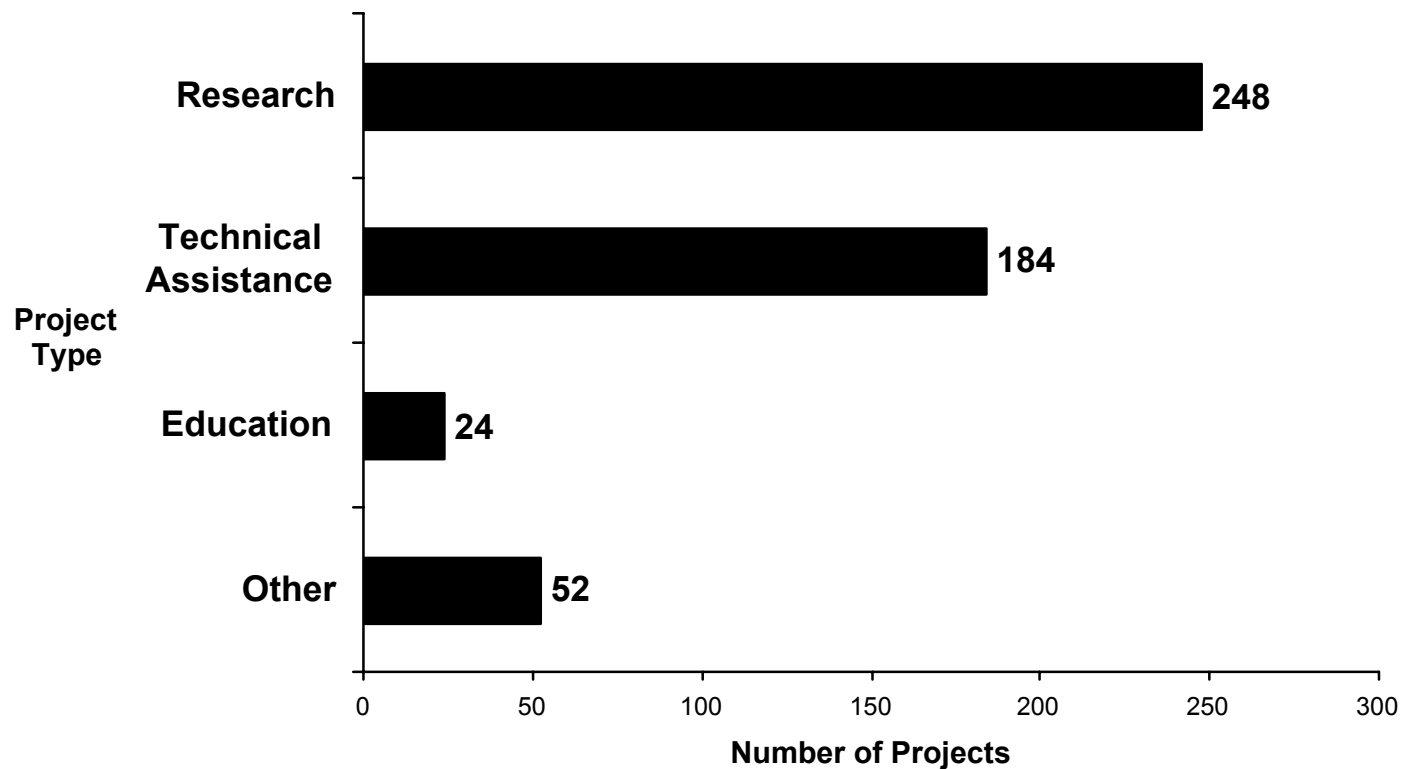
Current Participation

- 12 CESUs
- 13 Federal Agencies
- 89 universities (including 17 minority institutions)
- 24 state, tribal and non-governmental partners
- 44 states and territories



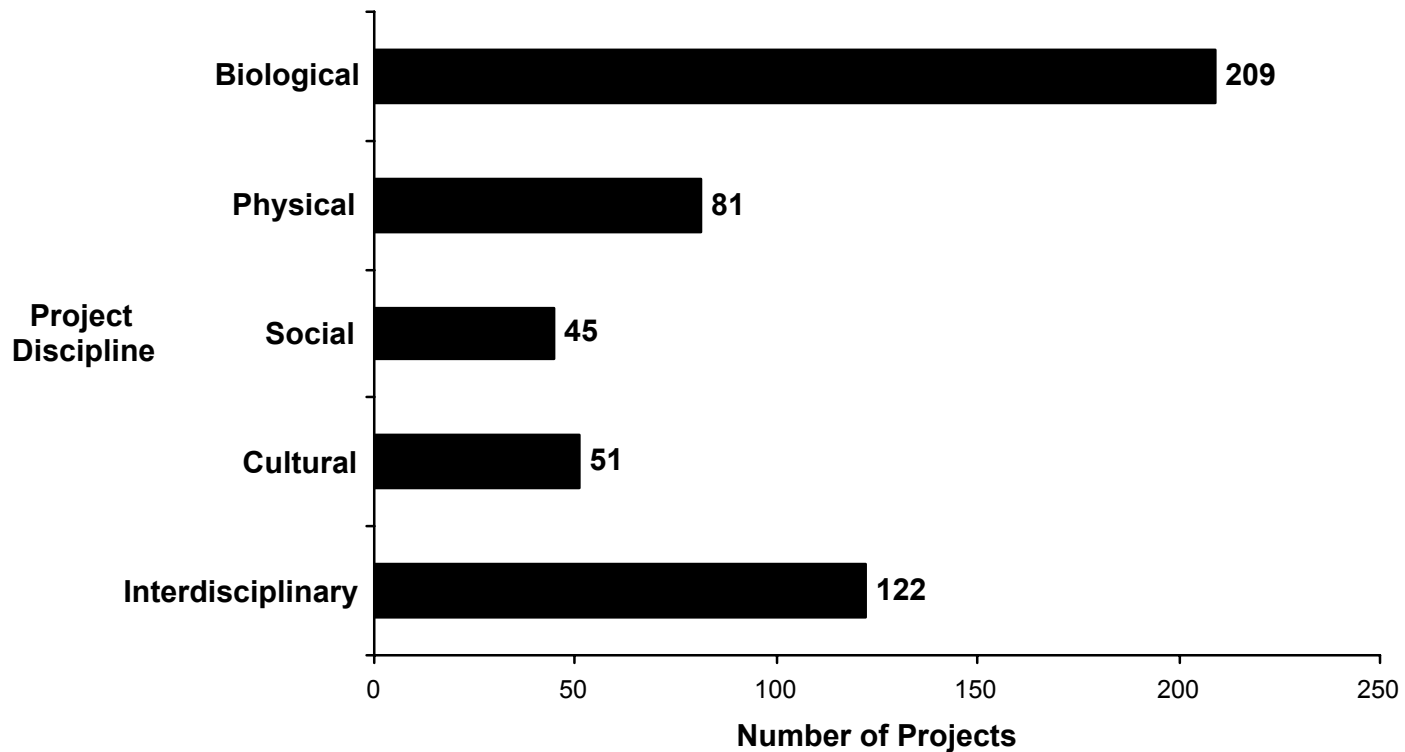
First Inventory of CESU Projects

**Figure 1. Number of Projects by Project Type,
CESU National Network, CYs 99-01
(N=508 Projects)**



First Inventory of CESU Projects

**Figure 2. Number of Projects by Project Discipline,
CESU National Network, CYs 99-01
(N=508 Projects)**



Developing the CESU Network

- CESU Council meets regularly
- CESU website at <www.cesu.org/cesu>
- First Inventory of CESU projects recently completed
- *Annual Report* distributed each year
- CESU Network Strategic Plan drafted
- Administrative Guide being prepared
- biennial CESU National Network Meeting
- full national coverage by FY03

Near-Term Goals

- complete the CESU Network
- implement CESU Network Strategic Plan
- duty-station additional federal scientists at CESUs
- publish Administrative Guide
- solve challenges, create opportunities, evolve and adapt CESU Network and concept

The Future of CESUs

- 21st century resource management requires skillful public service supported by sound science
- CESUs are an innovation and opportunity to deliver science to agencies
- building the CESU Network is a collaborative challenge

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